

STEP – Jihlava 2011

By joining the exchange program I learned a bit Czech language and I saw a lot of Czech Republic. The accommodation was near the center and very nice, breakfast there was ok. The language course was difficult but also very funny and the teacher was very motivated. It was a bit sad, that we had to change the teacher for the last two days, because of organizational reasons, but the second teacher we had was also very nice and I think we learned more with her (but it was a bit less funny). The restaurant where we had dinner and lunch was a bit far away (we had to walk a lot in these two weeks, but that was ok) and the menu was not suitable for vegetarians. We had meat twice a day, most of the time it was ok, but I didn't had the feeling, that it was very traditional menu. The vegetarians got a different menu that was nearly the same every day (no one wants to eat omelette every day). That was a bit of a problem and some stopped going there for lunch/dinner.

Most of the courses at the Polytechnic University were cancelled, we only had to courses there. One was ok but a bit boring (something with network technics) but the second, web in practice, was a bit of a waste of time. The teacher was really motivated, but it wasn't useful for anyone. Those of us, who knew how to create a webpage were bored and those of us who didn't, were totally overstrained. I was really looking forward to "Business English" and "Marketing and Management", but these courses were cancelled. We would have liked having more courses at the Polytechnic University.

The sightseeing trips were really great. It was really nice to see all the castles and the churches in the region. The best trip was the one to Prague, it was not in the program and we had to pay it ourselves. It was really nice, we visited the most important places and some of us stayed there for the night. Prague should be on the program for next year!

The other cities were also very nice and interesting.

We visited four different companies (not all of them very planned in advance). Valeo was the best because we were able to see all the assembly line and the manufacturing and the English of the guides was very good. Centropen was also very interesting, but it was a pity, that the guide didn't speak English. Bosch and Optocom were ok.

The two students from Jihlava, Kristina and Armina, who guided and helped us during the two week were very nice. They came with us to most of the trips, showed us the town and went out with us at night. (Playing billard, bowling, playing cards, etc.) They also did the organization for the trip to Prague.

A Problem was, that we never knew the program in advance. We had the feeling, that the program was changed rapidly and we never knew it for more than one or two days in advance. And it was a pity, that the responsible person at the Polytechnic University did

neither speak English nor German, communication was difficult because we could only ask questions via the two guides (the students) responsible for us.

All in all, I really liked the exchange program in Jihlava.